

step for man; one giant leap for mankind?" Buzz Aldrin's inspiring remarks brought back that momentous day—July 20, 1969—when the *Eagle* landed and man's first steps were taken on the moon. Most importantly, he made it clear to the students in the audience that they, too, can and will accomplish great things.

I am pleased to share Dr. Aldrin's remarks with my colleagues and ask that they be printed in the RECORD.

The remarks follow:

A SPEECH BY BUZZ ALDRIN UPON THE DEDICATION OF THE SCHOOL NAMED IN HIS HONOR

Few people have the opportunity to attend the dedication of a school that has been named for them. My family and I are appreciative that the leadership of Fairfax County named Aldrin Elementary School in my honor, rather than in my memory! Thank you very much. It is a privilege to be here.

Twenty-five years ago it was a privilege to be there. It was incredible to be someone who lived the words, "to go where no man has gone before," and science fiction became scientific fact when we walked on the moon.

Some of you in the audience may still remember where you were when you heard that the *Eagle* had landed. Some of you sat glued to a television screen as I climbed down to the surface of the moon. For a nation unwilling to accept second place in the race for space, it was a declaration of victory. For a world believing that space was an unconquerable frontier, it was a shout of triumph. "One small step for man; one giant leap for mankind."

I still hear those words in my ears, just like the hallways of this school echo with the steps of boys and girls and adults. Each day students, teachers, and administrators alike are taking small steps together to embrace the future. Some steps are taken in wheelchairs. Some steps are aided by walkers. Some steps are the small steps of two year olds and the larger ones are the steps of 12 years olds. But no one really moves toward the future alone. Each of us has been helped in our stride toward tomorrow. The steps that occur within this school are not steps taken alone. Parents hold the hand of their children, each step a step of love. Teachers hold the hands of students, each step a step of knowledge. Administrators hold the hands of students, parents, and faculty so that each step is supported. And community people, business leaders, people like Brian M. Mulholland, government officials like Senator Robb, Senator Warner, and so many others join hands and walk with this student body because the steps of students and faculty may look like small strides, but actually they are the steps that will take us into a world that will look very different.

It is here that you must take advantage of the latest in science and technology. It is here that you must realize that no dream is too small. And it is from here that a new generation of All-Stars have been born. Your theme this year has been "Reaching for the Moon With Its Stars," and appropriately so. Schools are places for those small steps that later become giant leaps. It is here that hopes are nurtured and cultivated. It is here that children can be instructed to do what others have done, and be challenged to do what no one else has accomplished.

My message to you today is that "No dream is too high for those with their eyes in the sky."

You honor more than me and my name with this school. You honor the dreams that propelled our nation to explore space and the hopes that continue to lead us toward the future. May we continue to honor our hopes

and dreams by enabling the small steps of children to become giant leaps for humanity.

It is obvious that "It's one small step for man; one giant leap for mankind" every day at Aldrin Elementary School. •

#### CUT CORPORATE WELFARE

• Mr. SIMON. Mr. President, there has been a great deal of praise to various people for direct lending, including some to PAUL SIMON.

But the person who really pioneered direct lending for the student loan program and was convinced of its usefulness before I was, is Congressman TOM PETRI, a Republican Member from Wisconsin.

Recently, he sent a "Dear Colleague" letter on direct lending because it is now threatened by people who profit from the present system.

His "Dear Colleague" is titled "Cut Corporate Welfare," and I ask that it be printed in the RECORD.

The letter follows:

#### CUT CORPORATE WELFARE

DEAR COLLEAGUE: Those of us who call ourselves fiscal conservatives won't have one shred of credibility as budget cutters if we are unwilling to go after corporate welfare with the same zeal we apply to other types of waste. And in this kind of effort, liberals should be willing to join us. Please consider the following case carefully.

Suppose you were a banker and you were able to make loans that: were fully guaranteed by the federal government (i.e. as safe as t-bills); paid you interest directly from the federal government for a period of years at 2.5% more than the interest on t-bills; were fully as liquid as t-bills (or even more so) because you could sell them at any time at face value or even a slight premium in a large secondary market with plenty of eager buyers; require no credit-worthiness analysis up front; and required no collection effort for a period of years (you do nothing but sit back and collect your interest), after which you could still sell them or start collecting on them and receiving an extra .6% interest?

Wouldn't that be a great deal? Wouldn't you fight like Hell to keep it? You bet. And the deal exists—it's the guaranteed student loan program. But it's a lousy deal for the taxpayers. They'd be much better off selling t-bills themselves to finance the loans (rather than renting banks' capital at 2.5% more than the t-bill rate) and then contracting for loan servicing with the current private servicers on a competitive bid basis. And guess what? That's what direct lending is. It's still a public/private partnership, but the one useful function the private sector performs—loan servicing—is priced in a market process rather than a political negotiation over interest rate premiums.

Think about it another way: what useful function are the banks providing? They can't assess risk. They take no risk. We can get cheaper capital. And we wouldn't even need their servicing if we collected these loans as income taxes through the IRS.

Make no mistake—guaranteed student loans contain an enormous bank subsidy. That's one of their four main sources of waste (the others are default costs, administrative complexity, and mistargeted subsidies for students). If we don't get rid of this corporate welfare, we'll have to cut more somewhere else.

The choice is clear—are you for the banks or for the taxpayers? True fiscal conserv-

atives should have no doubt about whose side to take.

Sincerely,

THOMAS E. PETRI, M.C. •

#### VETERANS' COMMUNITY-BASED CARE ACT

• Mr. WELLSTONE. Mr. President, I rise to support S. 725, the Veterans' Community-Based Care Act of 1995, introduced by my distinguished colleague, Senator ROCKEFELLER. I am honored to be an original cosponsor of this bill that I deeply believe is of signal importance to veterans and to the future of VA health care.

The VA currently is planning to revamp its health care system to reduce its strong emphasis on inpatient hospital care in order to provide more veterans with health care in outpatient and noninstitutional settings, including community-based facilities when such care is appropriate. This bill will not only support VA's restructuring efforts, but also help some of our most vulnerable veterans—those with substance abuse problems who require rehabilitation services; elderly veterans who are infirm; and homeless veterans who suffer from severe mental illnesses or substance abuse problems.

Let me stress that these are proven programs with successful track records and this bill will extend existing authorities for these worthwhile and innovative programs for about 5 years.

Mr. President, I would like to briefly describe these programs so that my colleagues may more fully appreciate their value to needy individual veterans and to the VA health system as a whole:

One provision would extend VA authority to contract with non-VA halfway houses for rehabilitation services for veterans with substance abuse problems. This worthwhile program was first authorized in 1979, and currently operates at 106 medical centers, with 6,300 veterans treated in fiscal year 1994. These community half-way houses perform a vital function in facilitating a veteran's successful transition from inpatient substance abuse treatment and detoxification to independent living within the community. The half-way houses provide a supervised, substance free environment, and help develop independent living and social skills. I strongly and unequivocally supported extension of this program in the 103d Congress and I firmly believe it merits further extension.

The bill also would extend VA's authority to provide health and health-linked service to veterans who otherwise would need nursing home care. It enables veterans to live at home and receive, at less cost to VA and the taxpayer, the same type of services that would otherwise be provided in a hospital or nursing home. Mr. President, this can be best described as a win-win-win program. Veterans would be able to continue living at home, costs to the taxpayer would be cut significantly,